Development Board had submitted a recommendation to the Government to enact a law to prohibit the slaughter of cows and bulls in the state. The subject was discussed at one of the sessions of the Legislative Council and also in the Press and on the platform which reflected the opinion of the public. The Member proceeded to argue his point on humanitarian grounds and quoted Regulation IV of 1079 and Regulation XII of 1089 as instances in which the Government had taken such action. The State of Kashmir was cited and the Member pointed out that it was the bounden duty of a Hindu State to intervene and stop the slaughter of cows. He then pleaded for more grazing lands as another measure for the protection and better breeding of cows, as it was generally the underfed cow that was being slaughtered. In conclusion, he requested that a law be enacted prohibiting the slaughter of cows at an early date or, in the alternative, to appoint a committee to report to the Government about the present condition of bovine animals in the State, and the feasibility of enacting a law in the interests of public health and the promotion of agriculture.

22. Immediate prohibition of cow slaughter.

Mr. Parameswaran Narayanan Bhattatiri (Member, Jenmi, Quilon Division) said that he did not want to waste the time of the Assembly by repeating the arguments advanced by the previous Member. He advocated the immediate prohibition of cow slaughter, firstly because this State was being ruled by a Hindu Ruler, secondly, on humanitarian grounds, thirdly on grounds of public health, and lastly in the interests of agriculture.

The Member presented a memorial on the subject signed by 23 members of the Assembly.

President's reply.—As regards the prohibition of cow-slaughter, I may state that a resolution on the subject was moved in the Legislative Council recently and that it was lost. The request of Mr. Sivaramakrishna Aiyar for the appointment of a committee to go into the question and the other suggestions contained in his speech and that of Mr. Parameswaran Narayanan Bhattatiri are noted.

23. The Ezhava Bill.

Mr. K. Padmanabhan Vaidyan (Member, Nominated) referred to the sad and premature death of Mr. N. Kumaran Asan, who for several years was a useful member of the Assembly, and expressed the gratitude of the community for the valuable services Mr. Asan had rendered on their behalf.

The Member next stated that the Ezhava Bill in its present form was highly detrimental to the interests of the *Misradaya* section of Ezhavas. The Member traced the history of the Bill and said that it owed its birth to the representations made at successive sessions of the Assembly by Ezhava Members. He then explained how the Ezhava Law Committee was appointed, how the examination of witnesses was proceeded with, in spite of protests, and how the final form assumed by the Bill was extremly one-sided. Coming to the later stages of the Bill, the Member said that, when it was being read for a second time in the Legislative Council, the inhabitants of Chirayinkil, Neyyattinkara, Nedumangad, Trivandrum, Quilon and Kottarakara waited on the Dewan and represented their grievances. They were then told that their grievances would be looked into. Since then the nature of the passage of the Bill through the Council was such that they were afraid of the danger ahead and had resolved to submit their grievances once again. The masses of the population among them were not educated enough to gauge the merits and demerits of the Bill. Though it was alleged that the Bill contained provisions which were in the best interests of the community, such a view was not upheld by those whom he represented. The law of inheritance and succession among *Misradayees* had been frequently laid down by the High Court and those decisions had won the approval of the community. The Government and the Legislative Council should give their recognition to those recorded pronouncements of the High Court. Nothing contrary to such pronouncements should be attempted so far as the *Misradayees* were concerned. The Member then proceeded to consider the Ezhava Bill in detail and entered his strong protest against section 31 of the Bill. He submitted that the amendment in that respect did not satisfy his section of the community and that they had therefore asked him to once again submit their well-considered views.

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